

--1. (Eleven Times Amended, clean version) A method of making a device for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a cylindrical support part,

11 providing two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, and

placing said arms on said support part such that said support part is disposed in said transverse holes of said two arms and at least one arm is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm, then stopping exerting pressure, which causes said at least one movable arm to tilt with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

--2. (Eleven Times Amended, clean version) A device for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said device comprising:

a cylindrical support part, and

two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the



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surface of said object,

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said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm, then stopping exerting pressure, which causes said at least one movable arm to tilt with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

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--16. (Six Times Amended, clean version) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer by sliding said at least one movable arm along said support part, <sup>u2</sup>

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms in <sup>the</sup> <sub>1</sub> direction of said object, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when <sup>u3</sup> ~~hands feel enough resistance~~, which causes said at least one movable arm to tilt with respect to said support part,



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such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part<sup>u4</sup>

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--17. (Three Times Amended, clean version) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said at least one movable arm having a said elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted, said method further comprising the steps of:

applying the elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said another support part against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when ~~hands feel enough resistance,~~<sup>u5</sup>  
which causes said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part to tilt with respect to said another support part, such that a frictional force is created between said another support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto, thereby locking said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.  
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--18. (Three Times Amended, clean version) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said at least one movable arm having a said elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted, said method further comprising the steps of

applying the elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said another support part against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part, and



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stopping the exertion of pressure when <sup>*u 6*</sup> ~~hands feel enough resistance,~~  
which causes said at least one movable arm supported on said another support  
part to tilt with respect to said another support part, such that a frictional force is  
created between said another support part and an interior surface of the  
transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto, thereby locking  
said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.

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--1. (Eleven Times Amended, marked-up version) A method of making a device for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a cylindrical support part,

providing two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, and

placing said arms on said support part such that said support part is disposed in said transverse holes of said two arms and at least one arm is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm, then stopping exerting pressure, which causes [tilting] said at least one movable arm to tilt with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

--2. (Eleven Times Amended, marked-up version) A device for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said device comprising:

a cylindrical support part, and

two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object,



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said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm, then stopping exerting pressure, which causes [tilting] said at least one movable arm to tilt with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at [hole] least one movable arm.

--16. (Six Times Amended, marked-up version) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms [:] and in contact with said elastic buffer by sliding said at least one movable arm along said support part [so as to apply the contact face of said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object],

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms in direction of said object, [The force exerted by fingers or hand palms on said backs is more or less transmitted by translation against said object. This object reacts and opposes a



resistance, which rises with the exerted pressure] and

→ stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance, which causes said [. Said] at least one movable arm to tilt [is then repulsed by said object. As a result, it tilts] with respect to said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.

--17. (Three Times Amended, marked-up version) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said at least one movable arm having a said elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted, said method further comprising the steps of:

applying the elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said another support part against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance, which causes said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part to tilt [is tilted] with respect to said another support part, such that a frictional force is created between said another support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto. thereby locking said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.

--18. (Three Times Amended, marked-up version) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said at least one movable arm having a said elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted, said method further comprising the steps of

applying the elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said



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another support part against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance, which causes said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part to tilt [is tilted] with respect to said another support part, such that a frictional force is created between said another support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto, [.] thereby locking said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.

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